GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3248
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2001
WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING
AMAR ROY PRADHAN;BRAHMANAND MANDAL;C. SREENIVAASAN;M.H. AMBAREESH

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether wildlife trafficking is on the rise in the country;

(b) if so, the total quantity of wildlife material (skin etc.) seized during each of the last two years and current year, till-date;

(c) the number of persons arrested on this account;

(d) the number of cases registered against persons found in illegal possession of wildlife materials during the above period, State-wise;

(e) the number of such cases pending in different courts in the country, State-wise; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to combat the rising menace of wildlife trafficking?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU)

(a),(b)&(c) Seizure made by the enforcement agencies in the recent past indicate that there has been a recent spurt in the illegal trade of wildlife and its products. The details of total quantity of wildlife material seized all over the country are not maintained at the level of Central Government. Details of important seizures made during the last two years and the current year along with number of persons arrested is at Annexure I.

(d)&(e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(f) The steps taken by the Government to combat the rising menace of wildlife trafficking is given at Annexure II.

ANNEXURE I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a)(b)&(c) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3248 10.12.2001 REGARDING WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING

The details of important seizure along with number of persons arrested

S.No	Case detected	Date	Persons arrested and action taken
1	Seizure of 3 nos. of tiger skins, 50 nos. of leopard skins and 5 nos. of otter skins at Sahibabad, Uttar Pradesh	18.12.1999	8 nos. of offenders arrested. Complaint filed in the Court
2	Seizure of 4 nos. of tiger skins, 70 nos. of leopard skins, 18000 nos. of leopard claws, 132 nos. of tiger claws and 221 nos. of black buck skins at Khaga	12.1.2000	6 nos of offenders arrested. Complaint filed in the Court.
3.	Seizure of 50 nos. of leopard skins and 15 otter skins at Haldwani	6.5.2000	No person arrested. Legal action initiated by C.BI
4.	Seizure of 30 nos. of leopard skins at Haldwani	21.5.2000	No person arrested. Legal action initiated by CBI

5	Seizure of 1757 nos. of snake skins by Wildlife Regional Office, Chennai	12.6.2000	3 offenders were arrested. The case is in the Court.
6	Seizure of 2000 skins of Cobra, Russel viper and other snakes near Kumbakonam in Tamil Nadu by Wildlife Regional Office, Chennai	13.6.2000	5 persons were arrested. The case is in the Court.
7.	Seizure of 70 shawls, 26 pure shahtooh and 44 suspected shahtoosh shawls at Delhi	2.2.2001	2 nos. of offenders arrested. Legal action initiated by CBI
8.	Seizure of 1 nos. of tiger skin, 5 nos. of tiger skulls, 10 nos. of tiger claws, 23 kgs. of tiger bones, 3 nos. of tiger teeth and 4 nos. of leopard skins at Nagpur	21.3.2001	6 offenders were arrested. Legal action initiated by CBI

ANNEXURE II

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (f) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3248 FOR 10.12.20 REGARDING `WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING`.

(1) Steps taken at the State level:

(i) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

(ii) State level and District level coordination committees have been set up in several States to prevent poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(2) Steps taken at National level

i. Government of India has set up Regional and Sub-regional Offices for wildlife preservation in major export and trade centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wild animals and their products.

ii. Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders. Anti poaching efforts are being coordinated with INTERPOL.

iii. Financial and technical help is being extended to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz. Project Tiger, Project Elephant, Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries and Eco-development around Protected Areas for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals. Financial assistance is, in particular, being provided for raising `Strike Forces` and providing arms to the protection staff for combating the organised poachers. Assistance is also provided for giving rewards to the informers for eliciting information about poachers and smugglers.

iv. A Special Coordination and Enforcement Committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Secretary, Environment & Forests, Government of India, for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

v. Export of wild animals and their derivatives is prohibited under EXIM policy.

vi. A National Conference of Forests and Environment Ministers of State Government was held on 29th and 30th January, 2001. It was resolved to organise existing protection staff into viable formations for effective control of poaching and to create enforcement infrastructure both within and out side protected areas.

vii. Ministry of Home Affairs has written to all the State Governments to lend a helping hand to the field formations to curb poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

viii. To check alienation of the local communities due to wildlife depredation, the Central Government gives compensation to the extent of Rs. 1 lakh to the kith and kin of the persons killed by the wild animals.

ix. A meeting of Tiger Enforcement Task Force of CITES was organized during April, 2001 in Delhi to work out a strategy for

controlling illegal trade in tiger parts and products.

(3) Steps taken at International level.

i. Government of India seeks international co-operation under the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) for control of illegal trade in wildlife items.

ii. To control transboundary trade a protocol has been signed with Peoples` Republic of China and a MOU has been signed with His Majesty`s Government of Nepal.

iii. A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to Tiger Conservation.